1	IN THE UNITED STA	TES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON	
3	STATE OF OREGON by and through) Ellen F. Rosenblum, Attorney )	
4	General for the State of ) Oregon, )	
5	Plaintiff,	Case No. 3:18-cv-00238-MO
6	)	Case NO. 3:10-CV-00230-NO
7	v. )	July 19, 2018
8	MONSANTO COMPANY, SOLUTIA ) INC., and PHARMACIA LLC; and )	
9	DOES 1-10, )	Portland, Oregon
10	Defendants. )	
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16	Oral Argument	
17	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
18	BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHAEL W. MOSMAN	
19	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CHIEF JUDGE	
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## (PROCEEDINGS)

(July 19, 2018; 3:11 p.m.)

THE CLERK: We are here for oral argument in Case No. 3:18-cv-238-MO, State of Oregon v. Monsanto Company, et al.

Counsel, please state your name for the record, starting with plaintiff.

MR. KETTERLING: Your Honor, Keith Ketterling for the plaintiff State of Oregon, along with Nadia Dahab and Yoona
Park. And also with us are Dan Mensher of the Keller Rohrback
firm and Henry Kantor from Oregon DOJ.

MR. HANSEN: Richard Hansen, Monsanto, along with Donald Fritz Zimmer, Katie Kelly, and Adam Miller.

MR. ZIMMER: Fritz Zimmer, Your Honor, of King & Spalding for Monsanto.

THE COURT: Thank you all. Go ahead and be seated.

Thank you all for your helpful briefing in this matter. Quite frankly, the briefing in this case has been a cut above whatever the average is, and I appreciate the effort that went into that.

Let me lay out what I'd like to discuss at oral argument, and I'm going to reach a point where the main thing we discuss will be on that sheet of paper that you just received from me.

So, of course, plaintiff brought this lawsuit in state court, and Monsanto removed under 28 U.S.C. 1442(a)(1).

And that is a provision of federal law that allows a federal officer to remove the case brought under certain circumstances in state court to federal court. What's relevant for our purposes is the parenthetical that says, "a federal officer (or any person acting under that officer)." And what's been attempted to be defined since is what that parenthetical means.

The core of the statute, of course, gets at an actual federal officer sued initially in state court, and in my experience, its most common application in cases not directly involving federal officers is state and local law enforcement officers acting on task forces. So that gives you some idea of what the core of the statute gets at.

What is clear in cases where someone is relying on this parenthetical, (a)(1)'s parenthetical, is that the person must be acting under the federal officer's subjection, guidance or control. And that's right out of *Watson*. Or to put it another way, "acting under" must involve an effort to assist or help carry out the federal superior's duties or tasks.

There may be more to discuss about that standard, but I think that's the core of the standard, and I think the parties generally agree, although there's some discussion of what other cases might do at the perimeter of that standard, but none of that really alters that core standard in any meaningful way.

And so someone asserting -- a person who is relying

on this for proper removal under Section 1442(a)(1) has to show three things: the one I just mentioned, that it took action under a federal officer's subjection, guidance or control; two, that there's a causal connection between the claimed harm or conduct and the federal control -- that is, that the complaint arises out of the acts done by it under federal control; and three, that it can assert a colorable federal defense.

So if I have this right, Monsanto asserts three possibilities here for colorable federal defense: one is the government contractor defense, which I'll discuss more fully later; and the other is the Defense Production Act defense; and the third is a sort of a defense of preemption.

So for oral argument purposes, I'm going to have you rest on the briefing on preemption. We won't need to discuss that any further under CERCLA, and we'll discuss the other two as it goes along.

So the test to apply here is whether, one, this case at this stage involves action taken by Monsanto under a federal officer's subjection, guidance or control; two, is there a causal connection between those controlled actions and the claims; and three, whether Monsanto has a colorable government contractor or DPA defense.

I want to get -- I want to talk about and in some cases get rid of some preliminary or predicate matters. So first is this question of facial versus factual challenge,

because it does impact the burden of proof possibly on Monsanto, and in my view, it's a factual challenge that plaintiff raises here.

In a factual challenge, plaintiff contests the removing party's factual assertions, and it's true for what it's worth that many of the factual assertions Monsanto makes here are not contested. Perhaps numerically most of them are not contested for today's purposes. But when Monsanto asserts, and the State disagrees with the assertion that, quote, the federal government -- just as an example, that the federal government financed the expansion of Old Monsanto's facilities, when Monsanto asserts that and the State disagrees with that, what you have is a factual disagreement, a fact dispute. And that triggers the burden to produce competent proof of the asserted fact, the burden on Monsanto.

Facial, in my view, would be something more abstract. Facial would be somebody arguing -- just to attempt a facial argument here -- that no private party can rely on 1442(a)(1), for example, and the facts don't matter, it's just the statute itself.

There's been some discussion about whether Watson states the controlling standard in light of subsequent cases -- Leite, Cabalce, even Goncalves -- and the answer is yes, it's still the controlling standard, and what I've stated I think is a fair statement of what Watson sets out as the controlling

standard.

There's a discussion of -- so eventually -- again, these housekeeping predicates are not all analytically in order, but eventually we get to a discussion if I thought it was important on whether you get federal question jurisdiction in this case by virtue of the impact on federal enclaves. And I don't need to hear any oral argument about federal enclaves.

There's also some discussion about whether consolidation is a factor that might tilt my thinking towards finding jurisdiction here, and I don't want to hear any further about that.

There's been a request that I take judicial notice of a number of facts. Some are unobjected to, and I also find them, the ones that are unobjected to, at least potentially useful for the analysis, and so I'll take judicial notice of them.

I deny the request to the degree that the State objects, because I find the State's objections are those things I don't believe are relevant to my analysis.

So what we are left with is taking the asserted basis for federal officer jurisdiction and running them through a sort of three-part matrix: is there a showing of the necessary degree of control; is there a showing of the necessary nexus; and is there a viable either government contract or a DPA defense available.

And so I don't want to do violence to the entire structure of the argument you've presented. I'm willing to hear it in a way that you think will best allow you to present what you wanted to say, but those are the issues that -- grounded in the asserted bases for jurisdiction I think will help me the most.

Before I close my little opening soliloquy here, I do want to make sure that the six asserted bases that we've culled from the briefing covers the ground for the asserted bases that Monsanto has before me today. Does it?

MR. ZIMMER: Your Honor, I've been reviewing that as you've been speaking. I do see a couple of other things that I don't see registered in the Court's list, if you don't mind my offering that.

I think there are some exhibits that refer to unwilling sales that Monsanto made to the government that I'd certainly like to call the Court's attention to, in particular, at Exhibit 6, 21, and 23.

And I have to admit I was trying to concentrate on what Your Honor was saying, so I'm not sure that I might not find others, but that's the one --

THE COURT: You'll let me know as you have a chance to consider them further.

MR. ZIMMER: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Obviously this isn't anything other than

1 a guide to oral argument, so you're not bound by it. 2 MR. ZIMMER: Understood. 3 THE COURT: So it's the State's motion to remand. I'll turn to the State first. 4 5 MR. KETTERLING: Thank you, Your Honor, and thank you for the guidance. I think I'm pretty much done with my 6 7 argument at this point. What I want to address, given the Court's quidance, 8 is first I want to talk briefly about Watson and about Leite 9 and Cabalce. And I think what's important is the Court has the 10 11 right standard from Watson, but Watson is very specific and 12 says the removal limits are not limitless, that even though 13 there are grounds for removal, they're not limitless. 14 have to be applied with some guidance. 15 And Leite --16 THE COURT: I'm not sure how that advances the ball much. 17 MR. KETTERLING: Well, I think it says --18 19 THE COURT: I agree. I agree that the removal standards don't allow for limitless removal. 20 21 MR. KETTERLING: And so then you look at Leite and 22 Cabalce, and one shows, you know, a clear example of what is 23 satisfactory to allow for removal -- that's *Leite* -- and then 24 Cabalce shows exactly what's not enough. 25 And if you look at those two cases, I think it's --

in our position, it's very difficult to see how Monsanto falls anywhere near the *Leite* standard at all. And if you look at *Watson* and the history that *Watson* provides us with why this statute came about, again none of that is implicated in this case. And when we're talking about federal officer control, direction, in one sense it's really a matter of is this essentially an employee acting in the course and scope of their employment or is it an independent contractor. Does the employer, does the government, the federal officer have such a level of control and direction, much as you look at in the employment independent contractor analysis as well. Does the government have that much control that it is literally telling the defendant in this case, Monsanto, what we want in this product, not that we want your product to go into this other product.

And the evidence that we've seen, nowhere does it provide any specifications of what Monsanto needs to put into its PCBs. It calls out --

THE COURT: That's a little difficult, right, in a PCB case, because if the federal government orders up a helicopter and then provides detailed specifications for what it wants in the helicopter, then that's understandable. There's a million ways to make a helicopter, and you'd have to say this is what we want: We want six seats not five, we want four windows not eight, et cetera. On you go until you've got

500 pages of specifications on your helicopter.

If the federal government says, well, we want to buy helium from you, well, then they don't need any specifications, right? We want you to sell us something and it has to have helium in it. I mean, that's the end of the specifications, right? You can't further specify helium.

MR. KETTERLING: If you are simply buying a product off the shelf that that company manufactures --

THE COURT: I don't care about off the shelf or not.

I'm just talking about specifications.

MR. KETTERLING: But that's not controlling or directing the company in any sense.

THE COURT: What you're saying is that you think it's insufficient if the federal government says, "If you're going to sell us this product, it must have PCBs in it," right? You're saying that's insufficient because that's just one sentence; it's not very specific.

Do I have your argument right?

MR. KETTERLING: Except that even in the evidence that's been put forth, the government doesn't just say, "We want your PCBs." Back in Exhibit 4, I believe it is, it says, "This is simply a suggestion that the supplier can use anything that is equated to this."

THE COURT: Sure, we'll get to that. That's a factual exception. But I want to make sure I understand your

broader argument, which I thought was that if the government says it wants PCBs in the product and doesn't say anything more about the PCBs, like how they must be made or what they must be composed of or something like that, that that's insufficiently demanding to meet the control standard of *Watson*. Is that your argument?

MR. KETTERLING: I think it is.

THE COURT: All right. And so my point was I understand that argument with helicopters and I think it fails with helium. Right? Would you agree with that? If you say, "I want you to put helium in it," there's nothing more you can say, it's either helium or not helium.

MR. KETTERLING: But that doesn't provide federal officer direction. That's the federal government purchasing a product. That's not the federal government directing you how to make that product. If anything the federal government purchased would implicate the federal officer removal statute, then there would be no state court cases. Every case involving anyone who provided any product to the federal government would implicate 1442(1).

THE COURT: What I'm trying to figure out is the level of control involved here, and I want to understand your argument that it's not there when the government simply says, "We request that PCBs be in the product" or that we request that anything be in what we purchase. The federal government

can buy something and it can say, "When we buy this thing, it has to have the following elements." And you're saying that if that's all the government does, just says this product that we want to buy must contain the following elements, that's insufficient control?

MR. KETTERLING: Yes, it is.

THE COURT: And if the specification list isn't long and demanding, you know, we want to buy a toilet for our jets, and it's got to be exactly like this, and the specifications go on for 25 pages, is that demanding enough? I mean, is there a point where it can be so specific about what it wants to buy that it meets the *Watson* standard? Is there any point where it can meet the *Watson* standard by being so specific about what it wants to buy?

MR. KETTERLING: Depends, I think, on whether you're talking about the actual manufacture of the entire product or if you're talking about just one component of that product.

And if you -- if the federal government goes and says, this is how we want our toilets built, and it gets into every detail, every little detail may not -- every supplier, every subcontractor is not necessarily a federal officer directorate, but that overall manufacturer, if it's doing it exactly the way the government says, that could implicate federal officer removal. We're not at that point here. We're at a point -- THE COURT: That's a different argument. That's

saying that you're just a supplier to someone who is in a contractual relationship with the government. That won't work -- or rather that Monsanto is, that that won't work, right?

MR. KETTERLING: Right.

THE COURT: I'm trying to make a more elemental point and make sure I understand your position, and that is you do agree that the federal government in buying something can be so specific that at least as to the person providing the product in the direct selling relationship to the government, it would meet Watson's control standard. That's possible, do you agree?

MR. KETTERLING: It's possible. I'd have to see a specific situation, but yes, I would agree that it's possible.

THE COURT: And so what we have to ask is not whether it's merely a purchase by the government but whether it's a purchase by the government that has a lot of specificity and demand to it made not to somebody else but to Monsanto. And if it has a lot of it, then maybe we're getting there, and if there's not much, we're not getting there, right?

MR. KETTERLING: Right. If there's specificity to Monsanto as to we want you to produce this compound this way, there are lots of different PCB combinations and --

THE COURT: That's what I wanted to ask. My point on helium is there's only one way to provide helium: You go find helium and put it in there. There's a million ways to make a

1 helicopter. 2 On that continuum, where is PCB? 3 MR. KETTERLING: On that continuum, PCB is --There's a lot of ways to make it? 4 THE COURT: 5 MR. KETTERLING: There's a lot of ways to make it and 6 the government is not calling for a specific -- the government 7 is simply asking for an off-the-shelf product to be contained in the product that it's ordering. It's not directing 8 9 Monsanto, we want PCBs and we want you to make them this way or 10 we need it done this way. 11 THE COURT: All right. So that's your argument, and 12 then you have two other arguments. One is that in some of the 13 instances we'll discuss, the requirement to put in PCB isn't 14 even made to Monsanto, it's made to somebody else who then asks 15 Monsanto to help them out. That's your argument, right? 16 MR. KETTERLING: That's one of the arguments, yes. 17 THE COURT: And another argument is that sometimes 18 the government doesn't even say "must." It just says, "Well, 19 maybe we'd kind of like it, but you can do something else if 20 you would like." 21 MR. KETTERLING: Yes. 22 THE COURT: All right. Let's go with the chart I 23 gave you and walk through it one by one. 24 As to the Watson three-part test, what's your 25 argument on necessity certificates? Does that show enough

control?

MR. KETTERLING: Your Honor, I don't think that shows any control. I think that shows a tax credit. It doesn't show the government telling Monsanto what to do, how to manufacture PCBs in any sense. It shows a touch, a connection to the federal government in the manner of tax credits it gets. It's not the government saying, "We want you to build this factory to build PCBs like this."

So I think the necessity certificates aren't even close to being government control of Monsanto.

THE COURT: It encourages PCB production, right?

MR. KETTERLING: Encourages anything else Monsanto
wants to make as well with the tax credits. It's not --

THE COURT: Maybe as well, but not to the elimination of PCB, right? It does, in fact, encourage PCB production, right? That's not a hard question, Counsel.

Let me state it instead of make it a question.

It does encourage PCB production. Your argument is the government encourages a lot of things. That's not *Watson*'s control, though.

MR. KETTERLING: It may encourage it through tax credits that this company can make PCBs, yes.

THE COURT: All right. So as to the necessity certificates, you don't think the control under *Watson* is there.

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What about the nexus, the expanded facilities -- the PCBs, rather, produced at these expanded facilities, expanded from encouragement of a necessity certificate went to Oregon, made it to Oregon. Is that known? Unknown? Didn't happen? What's the deal? MR. KETTERLING: There's no proof. It's not our burden on this. It's their burden to prove by preponderance of the evidence that there is that causal nexus and the --THE COURT: Your contention is that right now it's simply not alleged, the nexus is not alleged? MR. KETTERLING: Yes. There is no showing of any nexus between the federal government's direction of the necessity certificates and manufacturing of PCBs that were targeted to come to Oregon. THE COURT: All right. And as to the -- this one would only involve, I think, the government contractor defense. We didn't talk about its subparts, but you've briefed them, the four subparts to the government contractor defense? MR. KETTERLING: Yes. THE COURT: Do you find that any or all of them fail here? MR. KETTERLING: I think in the government contractor defense, I think first of all, in looking at a colorable federal defense, I think the standards are important, and I think the Holdren case talks about the plausibility of the

defense, not just saying there's a defense but the colorability relates to whether it's really plausible.

In this case there isn't any evidence that it applies or that Monsanto is a contractor who designed and manufactured military equipment for the government.

It also doesn't show that the U.S. -- and this is the language from *Boyle*, I believe. "U.S. approves reasonably precise specifications and contractor warns the U.S. about the dangers of the use of the equipment."

Now, that doesn't mean that they don't have the ability to raise a federal defense in state court, but I don't think they have brought it to a level in these pleadings where there's a colorable federal defense that they can assert under these grounds.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

I think what I'd like to do, rather than hear all of your arguments on all of this, is just go back and forth one at a time.

MR. KETTERLING: Sure.

THE COURT: Does that pose any problem for you?

MR. KETTERLING: No.

THE COURT: All right. So I'd like to go through the three-part matrix on the necessity certificates, first as to the degree of control involved under *Watson* by the issuance from the federal government of these necessity certificates.

1 MR. ZIMMER: Fair enough, Your Honor. I'm going to take the podium, if I may. 2 3 THE COURT: That's fine. I also have -- I don't know if you want 4 MR. ZIMMER: 5 to get it now or later, but I have a slide deck as well. shorter than Mr. Howard's and I'm not going to put it up on the 6 7 screen but I'll at least hand it out. That's fine. Please do. 8 THE COURT: 9 MR. ZIMMER: (Handing.) 10 All right. Thank you, Your Honor. 11 Let me start by saying something about the issue of 12 the helicopter analogy which Your Honor raised. Helium is 13 about as close to this as you can get. PCBs are a molecule, 14 and if you change that, then they're no longer a PCB. 15 You saw in evidence that we've submitted that the 16 government, for example, ordered Monsanto, directed them to supply Aroclor 1242 to Raytheon. 17 18 By the way, as a quick aside, there's no question but 19 that we are a subcontractor in many of these situations. 20 our papers indicate, the cases don't distinguish between 21 subcontractors and contractors. So I think everybody --22 THE COURT: Well, they don't distinguish in the sense 23 that the government can exercise sufficient Watson-level 24 control over subcontractors as well as contractors. You still

have to show that control by you as a subcontractor.

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MR. ZIMMER: Correct. But in the analogy I'm giving you -- or the example I'm giving you, rather, that's borne out in our papers and the exhibits, when Raytheon needed missile potting material from Monsanto that included Aroclor 1242, that product is specified, and if that molecule were changed, if 1242 was altered in some way, it wouldn't have satisfied that. And the evidence shows that the government declined to agree to any other material that would satisfy that purpose.

THE COURT: So it is your position, picking up the sort of semi-parade of horribles you just heard, that any time the government reaches out into the marketplace and says, well what we want to buy must have this component in it, and specifies the competent, that a dispute over that commercial transaction could end up in federal court?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, Your Honor, I think it depends on the type of product that it is and how long and specific, if you will, that process of compulsion goes on. Here you've seen it transcend several wars and conflicts and a good deal of years.

And, of course, what you heard from opposing counsel is that we somehow have to now within 30 days of being served with the complaint prove all these things that occurred somewhere between 40 and 89 --

THE COURT: Counsel is not making you do that. I mean, that's just what the law is. Right?

MR. ZIMMER: Right.

THE COURT: And that's everybody -- that's everybody who removes a case. If you remove a case, you'd better be ready to defend the removal pretty quickly. That's how civil procedure works.

MR. ZIMMER: Understood, Your Honor. And I think we have done that but I want to make one observation because it came up earlier as well in Your Honor's comments about facial versus factual attack. With all respect, I do think this is a little different from a pure factual one, for the primary reason that the *Leite* case talks about what was shown there, and the showing that they made as a factual challenge to what had been proffered when the removal was made was to introduce extensive evidence outside the pleadings. And that included military specs, technical manuals, warning label guides, and deposition excerpts. None of that has been done here. In fact, the only thing that's been done here is for counsel to make their own argument and interpretation. And I would simply submit that the argument of counsel is not enough to change that from a facial to a factual.

THE COURT: Thank you. Let's turn to the necessity certificates.

MR. ZIMMER: All right.

Now, you've seen in our papers, Your Honor, that the Anniston, Alabama plant was expanded dramatically, and indeed,

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there's really no dispute that the number is somewhere between and 80 and 100 percent of its production was devoted to The papers I think from both sides came to agreement wartime. on that. That doesn't help me with the question of THE COURT: That that fact happened is agnostic on the question control. of control. MR. ZIMMER: Well, let me say, Your Honor, I think the exhibits we've submitted -- and you've got the numbers correct there, 11 through 16, there may be one or two more -describe that process as one that the government was insisting upon. They needed and, in fact, were paying, if you will, Monsanto for production of this essential wartime project. That's why that plant expanded. THE COURT: Your client was encouraged to expand through a tax credit, right? MR. ZIMMER: Yes, Your Honor. And, in fact --THE COURT: And it did expand because it got a tax credit -- well, in part. Who knows why else. But in part because it got a tax credit to expand. So the control is -- they could have not expanded, correct? MR. ZIMMER: Well, I suppose that's possible, Your Honor, but given the way these exhibits read, it certainly looks as if the government is insisting that they need more and

more of this and that Monsanto is falling short of it, they need to expand.

THE COURT: You mention in your brief that this is a point -- I think this may be one of the points you're talking about, that Monsanto would have ignored the encouragement of the government to expand here at its peril. What does that mean?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, for example, Your Honor, there are orders that are made exhibits to our papers that show that the Defense Production Act was invoked. So it left us with no option.

And one very important detail that I don't think we made enough of in our papers, and I want to make sure I call to the Court's attention here, is that several of the orders that we marked as exhibits -- and I can give you examples in a moment, but several of them talk about orders that we were directed to fill after 1970 and '71. And in 1970 and '71, that's the time frame in which Monsanto stopped selling PCBs commercially for most uses. The only ones that continued were in very closed settings, such as capacitors and transformers.

THE COURT: All right. So on the necessity certificates, your argument is that it was a powerful push by the government that you would have only been able to ignore -- that is, say no to -- at your peril, right? That's the control argument.

MR. ZIMMER: That is correct, Your Honor.

And I do want to make one brief point about the financial aspect of this. I am still a little surprised at whether there is a meaningful distinction between a tax credit and an actual check being written.

THE COURT: There is no financial distinction. I agree with that. No economist on Earth thinks there's a financial difference between a payment -- a financial payment by the government and a tax credit.

But it can be very different for control purposes. The government could give the states money under the Federal Highway Act and say, "You take this money, the speed limit has got to be 55." Or the government can give states money under a block grant and say, "Do whatever you want with it." They're both dollar-for-dollar transfers but they have a different flavor on the question of control. So to say that there's no economic difference between the two doesn't really advance your argument much. It's all about control.

Let's turn to nexus. What's the nexus between the necessity certificates and the problem here in Oregon?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, Your Honor, here I have to fall back again on what the Ninth Circuit cases say, *Leite* and others, that indicate that the defense theory of the case is the one that should apply.

THE COURT: Sure. So do you have allegations here

that show that the expanded facilities produced PCBs that ended 1 2 up here in Oregon? 3 MR. ZIMMER: We do, Your Honor. THE COURT: Where? 4 5 MR. ZIMMER: Well, we have been charged with, if you will, in plaintiff's complaint, responsibility for virtually 6 7 every PCB molecule that ever existed. THE COURT: Well, you just told me that's not the 8 theory I should care about. 9 10 MR. ZIMMER: I'm sorry, Your Honor? 11 THE COURT: You just told me plaintiff's theory is 12 not the one I should care about. So I'm looking for you to 13 show me where you pled or alleged that the expanded facilities 14 expanded under the necessity certificates produced PCBs that 15 ended up here in Oregon. Did you do that? 16 I can do that, Your Honor, by indicating MR. ZIMMER: that all of those PCBs were made for the wartime effort -- this 17 18 is in World War II when that expansion occurred -- and thus 19 wound up in Navy and other ships, which then, of course, have 20 traversed the whole country, and many of them wound up here in 21 shipyards, where they were repaired, sometimes actually 22 manufactured. 23 It's not absolutely necessary, but THE COURT: 24 probably at least at some point the answer to my question 25 requires a citation to where you said that in any pleading.

Did you say anything like that or are you just saying that here in oral argument? Did you say the expanded facilities ended up in ships and some of those ships came into the Portland Harbor?

MR. ZIMMER: I can't point you to a specific place in our papers where we did that, Your Honor, but I'm certainly asserting it today, and I don't think that it's in dispute, because the --

THE COURT: Well, it is in dispute. It's very much in dispute. That's exactly the dispute. And the point is -- and this is where we get back to factual versus facial. The point is they say you have to show a nexus and you haven't alleged a nexus.

So I'm just asking have you met your burden of alleging a nexus?

MR. ZIMMER: Let me back up a step, then, and indicate perhaps I haven't explained what I think our nexus theory of the case is adequately.

What I'm suggesting is if they are tarring us with responsibility for every molecule, then our theory of their case is anywhere it's found, we're going to be responsible for it, so that means every molecule counts, and we don't need to go further than that to say that any expansion --

THE COURT: In fact, then, you don't have to show any particular nexus. You're just saying if it's a PCB molecule and they say it's ours, then somehow -- I think the argument

they posed to you in contrast, at least in the pleadings, is they believe the nexus argument requires that the activity -- the asserted basis for jurisdiction that you're asserting has to have resulted in the harm that they claim.

So you're saying just anything we did at any time might conceivably have resulted in a Navy warship coming through Portland, and that would be part of the contamination.

MR. ZIMMER: Well, I'm saying a little bit more than that, Your Honor, but I agree with your summary of it.

The point is that we know and it really can't be reasonably disputed that several shippard building operations, repair facilities, and decommissioning operations occurred in the Portland Harbor. There's a whole host of things that took place there.

In fact, I brought with me something that we found after the briefs were filed that I would like to submit and offer to plaintiff's counsel as well, which is from their own website, the State's website. And it acknowledges that shipyards are, in their view, a suspected source of PCB contamination. That's not a topic, I don't think, Your Honor, that really can be subject to dispute.

Let me, if you don't mind my stepping away -
THE COURT: I don't think you need to add that to the record. That's not the most shocking thing I've heard today.

MR. ZIMMER: Fair enough.

I'm happy to respond to other questions about that point if you would like me to.

THE COURT: No, I understand your nexus argument. It's a broad nexus argument, but I think I understand it.

MR. ZIMMER: And I do think it's supported by the case law, because once again the cases uniformly say in the Ninth Circuit that it's the defense theory of the case that is to apply. I think that's reflective, Your Honor, of the stage where we are. And, you know, I practiced for 35 years --

THE COURT: I don't know that saying that the defense theory of the case means that I simply have to accept the defense theory of nexus. Just because you've stated a theory of nexus doesn't mean it's satisfactory. I don't know one way or the other if it is or isn't yet. You seem to suggest that the Ninth Circuit is telling me that if you have a theory of nexus, that's the one I should apply.

MR. ZIMMER: Well, that's my read of the cases. They actually single out that stage of the test that you're describing, the causal nexus, and they say the defense theory of the case is the one that applies to that.

THE COURT: Are you asserting then a government contractor defense as the defense that you'd have to be able to show under *Watson*?

MR. ZIMMER: Your Honor, we're asserting --

THE COURT: As to the necessity certificate?

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MR. ZIMMER:

MR. ZIMMER: Correct. Not only that, but also -- and Your Honor already mentioned this, that we have three colorable defenses we're asserting: a government contractor defense; along with the Defense Production Act that I referenced earlier; and then the topic that I still assume you don't want to hear more about, which would be express and implied preemption under CERCLA. THE COURT: So how do the necessity certificates satisfy the elements of the government contractor defense? MR. ZIMMER: Well, I've already acknowledged, Your Honor, that in most of the settings we're talking about here we were acting as a subcontractor to other companies, either Raytheon, GE, Westinghouse -- you saw the names of several others -- when we were supplying these materials to them. became an important component part of what they were producing for the military. But, again, it was one that the military has shown was essential in the communications that are reflected in our exhibits. THE COURT: One element is that the supplier -that's you -- warned the U.S. about dangers. Is that --I'm sorry, Your Honor? MR. ZIMMER: THE COURT: One element is that the supplier -that's you -- warned the U.S. about dangers. Is that in the record here?

That is in the record, Your Honor.

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indeed, going back to the 1972, '73, and '74 exhibits that we were speaking about a moment ago, Monsanto amply did that, informing the government that it no longer was selling these. In fact, there are exhibits that we've submitted that said it didn't want to, and yet it was still compelled to. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Your Honor. I have other MR. ZIMMER: comments if you'd like to hear them, but they're on slightly different topics. THE COURT: Let's stick to these in a row. I'm not going to cut you off. I'll hear from you later. MR. ZIMMER: Understood. Thank you. THE COURT: On the list I've given you -- Let me make sure I have the right list in here front of me. The second would be the DPA orders as a group. For the State? MR. KETTERLING: Your Honor, respectfully, I don't see how the DPA orders add anything to this case. They -- I think there are two at the most, and they simply tell Monsanto to prioritize these orders that have already been placed by other purchasers. I don't see how that --THE COURT: There's two things going on here. There's what the statute says and what the orders say. And the order reads as though the government is actively directing Monsanto to produce PCBs for Raytheon; that they must do it.

Let's assume just for a moment that that's the case, that the government tells Monsanto, you have to produce PCBs for Raytheon even if Monsanto doesn't want to. Now, that's not a lot of specifications, that's not a lot of, you know, requirements and, you know, things about how it has to be produced or when or under what circumstances or in what kind of factory, but it is a fairly high level of control for the government to tell a manufacturer, you must make this for someone and send it to them.

Is that bare fact alone, if it's true -- I'll allow you to disagree in a moment. But if that fact is true, is that bare fact alone, that the government says to Monsanto, you have to make this, enough to be control?

MR. KETTERLING: And I do contend that that fact is not true, but it is still not enough to be control. It is not -- it's not any precise specifications as required by Watson or the Holdren case or the Boyle case.

THE COURT: So if the government says, "We don't care how you make it, but what we also don't care about is you don't want to make it. You must make it, make it now, and send it to Raytheon," that's not enough control?

MR. KETTERLING: No. It's a product they already have. It's not we want you to start up this plant and make specifically this type of Aroclor. It is you have this product and we want you to sell it to Raytheon.

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THE COURT: So if the government says to the steel industry, you must quit making cars, you must give us your steel for tanks and planes, that's not control? MR. KETTERLING: I don't think that's control for federal officer jurisdiction. THE COURT: All right. And then on nexus as to the DPA orders? MR. KETTERLING: I don't think the DPA orders have anything to do with Oregon whatsoever, and I don't think there's any proof that the DPA orders, the ones that are in the record at least, simply say prioritize these shipments. doesn't say we want this --THE COURT: So for you nexus means that Monsanto delivered PCBs to Oregon in response to the DPA orders, right? MR. KETTERLING: I think there has to be some type of nexus. That would be ideal, but they don't have any --THE COURT: If the DPA orders say, make this -- make these PCBs and send them to Maryland, and then we don't know what happens after that, that's insufficient nexus in your view, right? MR. KETTERLING: If they say make these PCBs and send them to Maryland? Send them to Raytheon. THE COURT: MR. KETTERLING: That's a nexus to Oregon. THE COURT: And what do you make of the idea that we

just heard of a nexus theory that says, look, you say you -your client says that the PCBs that are here in Oregon were
made by Monsanto, therefore that's nexus. You say they made
them so there's your nexus.

What do you think of that nexus theory?

MR. KETTERLING: Well, you can't forget that the nexus has to be also because of the federally directed activity. The fact that Monsanto made some PCBs for the government or end up in government hands, and many PCBs for other industries doesn't mean that there's a nexus just because we're suing on PCBs here.

THE COURT: So you're not asserting -- you say I shouldn't look at a nexus to Monsanto but rather a nexus to the federally controlled activity by Monsanto?

MR. KETTERLING: As I read the case law, that's what's required is the nexus has to be because of the federally directed activity.

THE COURT: And what about the idea that -- Let's say

I find control on, say, the DPA orders or something else. No

direct nexus at that moment to Oregon, but the theory is that,

you know, warships floated through the harbor and dropped PCBs

while they were here.

MR. KETTERLING: I don't think there's any proof of that nexus at all, and we talk about the factual versus facial. We're not required to disprove a negative. It's their

1 responsibility to provide factual evidence that proves their removal basis of federal officer direction and a causal nexus 2 3 to Oregon, to the claims we bring here. THE COURT: All right. 4 Thank you. And as to the last prong, the colorable defense 5 6 prong, your argument? 7 MR. KETTERLING: I don't see that there's any evidence in the record that again reasonably precise 8 specifications done for military purposes, contractor warns the 9 U.S. specifically about the dangers of the product. 10 11 THE COURT: Do you agree there was a warning on the 12 record here in this case? 13 MR. KETTERLING: I don't think there was a warning. 14 I think years after -- I mean, near the end, Monsanto got what 15 could best be classified as a get-out-of-jail-free card or 16 attempt, but not even from the government. And it wasn't that we don't think these should be produced. I don't think that's 17 in the record. 18 19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 20 On the DPA orders? MR. ZIMMER: Thank you, Your Honor. 21 22 And I think I am going to go ahead and submit, if you 23 don't mind, as a supplemental exhibit this State of Oregon 24 website --25 THE COURT: That's fine.

1 MR. ZIMMER: -- that we obtained. (Handing.) 2 THE COURT: I think I understand your control 3 argument here already. I believe I've heard your nexus argument. The same nexus argument you made earlier would apply 4 5 here, right? 6 MR. ZIMMER: It would, Your Honor, but with one 7 additional wrinkle. Let me indicate this is dated -- it's called a PCP "Fact Sheet: Sources of Polychlorinated 8 Biphenyls." It's from oregon.gov's website, and it's dated 9 8-6-03. 10 11 And I want to point out here that they acknowledge in 12 a section right on the first page entitled "background" that 13 "Because of health concerns, in 1971 Monsanto voluntarily 14 restricted manufacturing of PCBs to use only in closed 15 systems." 16 And because we were speaking about the dates of when 17 we were compelled to make additional sales to the government, 18 sometimes postdating that 1971 date, I wanted to make sure you knew that that was in here. 19 20 Thank you. THE COURT: 21 MR. ZIMMER: In addition, on the last -- or sorry, 22 third-to-last page of this exhibit, there is a section in 23 Attachment 2 entitled "Fate and Transport of PCBs." 24 Forgive me, Your Honor, I should be standing. 25 That's fine. You can remain seated. THE COURT:

MR. ZIMMER: All right. Thank you.

On this page in the second paragraph, right underneath the PCB molecular structure diagram which is called Figure 1, it says this. They talk about PCB manufacturing having been banned in the U.S. and then the estimated number of tons of PCBs that were released, et cetera. And it says, "60,000 tons to fresh and coastal waters," and go on below to say, "Once reemitted, PCBs can be transported long distances in air."

Again, these are allegations that the State is making not Monsanto. I don't know that we even agree with them wholeheartedly. But the point is, they -- both in their complaint and in things that they have announced to the public -- view the presence of PCBs as ubiquitous, and are attempting to place the blame for them solely on Monsanto.

THE COURT: Right. I mean, the two of you now are talking past each other, however. You're saying that they want to blame you for all the PCBs on Earth, certainly all of them in Oregon. And that's fine, that may well be a colloquial description of what they're saying in their originally state-filed complaint.

That's not my question. My question is you wanted to bring this to federal court, so now you have to show federal actor jurisdiction. And that means you have to show, in my view, that the actions you took under the control of the

federal government resulted in the harms that are at the core of this case.

MR. ZIMMER: I understand.

THE COURT: So if all you've got is that other actions you took resulted in the harms at the core of this case, then we're back in state court. It doesn't mean that you're wrong in alleging that they're saying you're responsible for all the PCBs or that PCBs float all over the world. That just means that doesn't help me answer the jurisdictional question. I've got to find that the federal government made you do certain things that resulted in the harms here. And in my view, that means that you've got to show as your nexus that the federal government made you do things that resulted in PCBs being here in Oregon, not just that you in other ways may be responsible for them.

MR. ZIMMER: I understand, Your Honor, and I think, as I indicated earlier, it's not much of a leap to make the legitimate inference that because PCB production demanded by the military was so widespread, particularly in war years, that that consistently happened everywhere that Navy ships were constructed, repaired, decommissioned, et cetera, and that included substantial operations here in Oregon, which would then have resulted in PCBs getting into the water and hence --

THE COURT: Right. And that's where we really come to a burden of proof issue, because, I mean, you could have

said exactly that. You could have said that, among other things, Navy ships with PCBs were constructed, cleaned, docked, retrofitted, and otherwise worked on here for a long period of time in these waters.

But the question for today's purposes is did you say that. I think the answer to that question, as best I can tell, is no.

MR. ZIMMER: Well, I believe we at least inferred it, Your Honor, and if we didn't say it -- you have my sincere apologies -- it's without dispute, however, that that occurred, and that's again what we're being blamed for.

THE COURT: Thank you. That's all I really need to hear on DPA orders.

I'll turn again to the State on the indemnity agreement with the Atomic Energy Commission. Again, just point by point on the three elements of *Watson*.

MR. KETTERLING: Yes, Your Honor.

There are no specifications in here at all.

Exhibit 23 actually says: Nothing herein shall create or imply any duty or obligation of Monsanto to sell or deliver any

Therminol or other PCB products. So I don't think there's any government control whatsoever in connection with that.

Secondly, there is again absolutely no nexus to any -- I don't think it's federally directed actions. Even if it was federally directed, there's no nexus to Oregon in any

sense in that exhibit, and --

THE COURT: I've asked counsel, your opponent, a couple times about allegations, and understandably what I've heard so far is that he's not aware or perhaps not sure whether allegations making this nexus, alleging, for example, that items shipped elsewhere would have circumnavigated and made their way to these waters is something that is alleged or not.

Do you know for a fact whether that is or is not the case? Are you asserting that it's not being alleged here, the kind of nexus that we're talking about?

MR. KETTERLING: I don't believe it's been alleged, and certainly hasn't been shown by preponderance of the evidence before the Court.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Anything you wish to add on the indemnity agreement?

MR. ZIMMER: Your Honor, only a brief response that
addresses the indemnity agreement in the same fashion that I

have with the other documents, and that is I think at that

19 stage our view of what *Leite* and the other Ninth Circuit

decisions hold is that we only have to allege facts that we

21 believe sufficient to get us across this threshold.

THE COURT: Because you view it as a facial challenge?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, Your Honor, we do. I've acknowledged that we do. And I think, again, absent anything

beyond just counsel saying it doesn't say that, I don't know how else --

THE COURT: If it is in fact, as I've intimated, a factual challenge, do you agree you've only alleged it and not proven it?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, I think we have proven, Your Honor, under either of those standards quite a bit of direction, subjection, quidance or control.

By the way, I think that word has been left out of our discussions.

THE COURT: We talked about control, but I'm asking whether you think you've met a burden of proof under a factual dispute on nexus.

MR. ZIMMER: I do, Your Honor. I think we've met it under either standard, but of course we would read it much more readily were it only a facial.

I also want to indicate that, again, the leading case analogized, if you will, or invoked 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6) standards. I started to mention earlier that I've been practicing for 35 years, and I've, of course, brought many a summary judgment motion. And many a time I've heard from the bench, "Mr. Zimmer, I appreciate your arguments and they're well taken and I'm quite certain that you'll win your case, but it's probably going to be at trial rather than here today."

Well, my view of this -- this probably won't surprise

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you -- is that the shoe should now be on the other foot because I think we've done plenty, particularly given the passage of time here, to show you how these sales orders were received and fulfilled, and in particular if we now concentrated on --THE COURT: Well, I want to make sure I get your argument. So if the shoe were on the other foot, you'd be saying that in the past you've wanted to show facts that would help you win, and the Court reminded you that at summary judgment, it's in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. Even at the motion to dismiss stage, it's even more true. MR. ZIMMER: Precisely. Here if the shoe were on the other foot, THE COURT: you'd be saying you should just be able to allege certain things, and if you allege them in a plausible -- with the plausible sort of Rule 11 foundation and a colorable basis for doing so, that should be the end of the analysis, right? MR. ZIMMER: That is exactly what the case law says. THE COURT: That's true only if it's a facial challenge. You agree that that's not true; that's not the methodology I'm told I must employ if it's a factual challenge,

MR. ZIMMER: That is true.

THE COURT: All right. So let me make this simpler going forward. I hold that it is a factual challenge. I've

looked at the case, I believe it's a factual challenge, and you have a burden of proof, and it's not, in my view, a sort of unfair switching of the foot on one shoe versus the other, it's just what the case law and the rules require in the removal context.

It is unusual, it is odd, I agree with you, for me to be looking at factual disputes and seeing if someone met a burden of proof here, but that's the nature of remand and removal. I'm not given a choice in it. I'm under the control and command of the Ninth Circuit on this one.

MR. ZIMMER: I take your point, Your Honor, and accept it.

THE COURT: So let's go forward with the assumption that what you've got is a burden of proof to meet a factual dispute on nexus, for example.

MR. ZIMMER: Fair enough.

And I think we have, again, given my theory of nexus that I've already expressed to you, I do think it is incumbent upon the Court to also weigh each of these issues separately and determine whether or not it is sufficient for simply counsel to say, well, no, we read this differently, it looks like it's merely prioritizing a shipment, when the words "you are directed to" are in that exhibit.

THE COURT: All right. I agree they must be analyzed separately. Thank you.

MR. ZIMMER: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Let's turn to the State for the specifications on heat-resistant aluminum paint. And again I don't need you to repeat articles that are identical across multiple categories, but if you have something new to add on the three matrixes, let me know.

MR. KETTERLING: Okay. On this, I won't get into the fact that there are no specifications, but what I do want to point out to the Court, however, is that it specifically says in Exhibit 4, "Sample composition. The following is an example of a formulation contemplated by the specification but in no way is a supplier restricted to this formulation."

So there is no reasonably specific specification to Monsanto on how to make PCBs. They're not even called for here. They're simply used as an example. And I would stick with my nexus arguments. I still see no evidence of any causal nexus to Oregon by federally directed action. And Monsanto says they've submitted all this proof, but over a course of 40 years, it seems to me if there is a causal nexus to Oregon, there should be a lot more proof that they're able to come up with.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Again, I don't need you to repeat, for example, your nexus argument unless there's a variation on it here that you want to alter.

MR. ZIMMER: No, Your Honor. I'll keep this one short. The only thing I would put out here is this is one of the exhibits that we've proffered that shows that Aroclor 1254 is indeed specified. And I take counsel's point that there is language in it that says it's an example of a formulation. The dilemma we're presented with, though, is it's the only one that would have fulfilled this. And we know that but don't have a specific exhibit we can submit to you to that effect. And I would ask the Court's indulgence to understand the position that we're in with the passage-of-time comments I've already made. Many of these events occurred as long as 89 years ago. The idea that this heat-resistant paint federal specification that was -- I'm looking for the year here -- 1959 -- and not surrounded by a lot of other paper that the company has retained is a function of the passage of time.

THE COURT: I appreciate that problem, although it seems to me that what that means is that in defending this case, you should have a court's indulgence in having the time you need to do the research you need, and even to take into account the possibility that some of what you need to know won't be available anymore. But that's the defense of the case.

You're not here today trying to defend the case, you're here today trying to remove it, and that means that you took the step of taking it out of state court and bringing it

here, and the burden is on you to justify the removal.

Now, it may mean that it's really difficult to do, but that's a part of the calculus you had to think about -- I'm sure you did -- before you removed it. And removal is a fast timetable. I understand that.

MR. ZIMMER: That's correct, Your Honor, and again

I'm not apologizing or looking for extra time, if you will,

other than that I think it is worth suggesting to the Court

that we have not been able to avail ourselves of any

third-party discovery yet, either to branches of the military

or to other contractors to whom we supply. We don't know

precisely whether they'd be able to fill in blanks of what some

of these documents show, but we again believe that the showing

we've made still adequately supports our removal.

And the State is trying to impose, with all respect, Your Honor, what we think is an impossible burden, given the passage of time. They want us to submit proof of precisely where, you know, a bulk-supplied product wound up in each and every instance, and insist again, as we've been describing, that it be without exception that the government either sat right behind us while we made it or designed it for us when, once again, there's no other design that could occur for a PCB molecule. We've already addressed that topic.

THE COURT: Thank you.

The next one is a little more multi-variant, and

that's sales to the federal government of PCB-containing products, generally speaking. And those include some to buyers throughout the country, including Department of the Interior here in Oregon, per Exhibit 8 at least, some in Maine, some to Raytheon.

So, for the State, walk me through the three parts.

MR. KETTERLING: Okay. There's no proof in any of those exhibits of reasonable specific specifications or the government telling Monsanto what to do or how to do it.

THE COURT: So this is the setting that you talked about earlier where you talked about off-the-shelf sales, right?

MR. KETTERLING: They're just buying it like everybody else can buy it. And, in fact, if you look at Exhibit 8, the page we were given is page 502. So who knows how long this report was overall, and the -- getting to your third point, which is colorable federal defense, this isn't even a sale to the military. It's not a military contract sale. It's a sale to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

If you look at Exhibit 9, it's page 668 is what we've received. And in there they find one Oregon connection, I think, which is Zidell Machinery Company, which isn't the government at all.

So I don't think we've got any federal officer direction or specification shown in these exhibits, certainly

there's no nexus, and I don't even think you can raise a 1 2 colorable federal defense on this basis. 3 THE COURT: Thank you. Go ahead, sir. 4 5 MR. ZIMMER: Yes, Your Honor. Let's look at 6 Exhibit 6, if we could, very briefly. 7 THE COURT: Go ahead. MR. ZIMMER: The government has directed us to 8 9 proceed to manufacture missiles but has refused to authorize 10 Raytheon to qualify a new potting material which would avoid use of Aroclor 1242. 11 12 Another portion of that same exhibit reads that they are acknowledging the fact that Monsanto in all of our 13 14 dealings -- this is Raytheon now -- expressed a strong 15 preference not to sell this product to us, and is proceeding 16 with the sale only at the direction of the government. I don't know how that's not direction, subjection and 17 18 control, Your Honor. And I want to point out one more time 19 that at that point in time -- and we're looking now at April of 20 1973 -- this is now two years after Monsanto voluntarily 21 stopped selling PCBs for the very use that this is compelling 22 them to do, in a plasticizer setting, because the potting 23 material that was including Aroclor 1242 is such a product. 24 THE COURT: What is your colorable defense for the

sales, let's say, to the most direct Oregon connection, the

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1 ones to the Department of Interior here in Oregon? 2 colorable defense would you be asserting as to those sales? 3 Well, I suppose if it's not one that was MR. ZIMMER: ordered by the Defense Production Act, then it would have to be 4 5 the government contractor defense, Your Honor, and the points we made earlier about CERCLA. 6 7 THE COURT: But even that requires some military connection, right? 8 9 MR. ZIMMER: True. THE COURT: And that's missing at least as to those 10 11 particular sales? 12 MR. ZIMMER: Well, to a couple of those exhibits that 13 you called out, yes, Your Honor, but not all of them. 14 THE COURT: Do we know how many of these sales -- I 15 quess you'd like me to assume that all the Raytheon sales are 16 military connected, right? MR. ZIMMER: Yes, I would, Your Honor. They were 17 18 manufacturing missiles for the military. 19 THE COURT: And that's a fair inference, I think, from the exhibits you've cited. 20 21 MR. ZIMMER: I believe it is. 22 THE COURT: Do we know as to others, where we don't 23 have some obvious military connection like Raytheon or Lockheed 24 or something, do we know as to the others one way or the other 25 whether the sales involved some sort of military connection or

military equipment?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, we know, Your Honor, as I mentioned previously, that the expansion of the Anniston, Alabama plant resulted in production nearly exclusively, between 80 and 100 percent, to the military during wartime. That meant that the military was widely using PCBs in many of its products that found their way on ships and, of course, as we've indicated before, I think it's a fair inference to say that they wound up here in Oregon, just as they would in many other states.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. ZIMMER: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The last asserted basis for federal officer jurisdiction I've listed here is sales to government contractors by Monsanto to government contractors for use in certain products. The State's argument?

MR. KETTERLING: The State's argument is that there is no reasonably specific specification by the government. There's no government control. This is simply between Monsanto and someone who wants to buy Monsanto's PCBs. There's absolutely no nexus to Oregon, and I don't see how there's a federal defense contractor defense to this.

THE COURT: And if the contractor had to have PCBs to meet specifications, what does that mean for Monsanto's -- the degree of control over Monsanto, in your view?

MR. KETTERLING: If the contractor went to Monsanto and essentially controlled the process and said, "We need it exactly in this compound, and we want you to do it this way," and directed Monsanto's actions, and did that as a government contractor, that might get them somewhere.

THE COURT: Well, that's back to your original argument about control.

But what if the federal government tells the contractor, "You must put PCBs in this product," and so then the contractor turn around and says to Monsanto, "We need this product to have PCBs in it, it must have PCBs in it, that's what the federal government is telling us, so that's what we're telling you."

Does that work?

MR. KETTERLING: To me that's the same as TSA says we need TV screens and we didn't have this kind of a transformer in them. But it doesn't mean that the company that makes the transformer, the same transformer you can buy anywhere else around the country, it doesn't make it a federally directed activity on the subcontractor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Go ahead, sir.

MR. ZIMMER: Thank you, Your Honor.

Well, let's look at Exhibit 18, one of the ones you asked about. This doesn't actually deal with transformers but

it deals with wire and cable applications. And here's the line I'd like to read from that and discuss with the Court.

"Aroclor 1254 was used exclusively in cellulosic lacquer utilized to meet military specs for lacquer used in wire and cable applications."

Your Honor, I don't know how a fair reading of that would not indicate that Aroclor 1254 was required to meet military specs. That's our take on it. I think it's again a fair factual allegation that if there's a tie to be broken, it should be made in our favor.

THE COURT: So let's assume for the moment that if
the government tells Monsanto, "We want to buy this product,"
and the only control it puts on Monsanto is to say it must
contain PCBs, let's assume I accept your argument that that's a
lot like helium, and I call that control sufficient under
Watson, is there an analytical difference between that scenario
and the government telling Raytheon or telling Acme
Corporation, "You want to sell us this product, it must contain
PCBs," and then Acme turns around and says, "Monsanto, we want
to buy PCBs from you because to meet the government
specifications on us, it's got to have PCBs in it."

Is that the federal government controlling Monsanto or just Acme?

MR. ZIMMER: I think it's both, Your Honor.

THE COURT: How? Obviously I'm giving you Acme. So

how as to Monsanto?

MR. ZIMMER: Because once again if you combine all of these things together and look at them collectively, you see that there is a course and pattern of us hearing not just from the contractor who is dealing directly with the government but from the government themselves, when they write to us and say, "You are directed to supply this to Raytheon."

THE COURT: Well, that's a whole nother hypothetical, right? I didn't say the government tells Acme to put in PCBs, Acme turns to Monsanto and -- oh, then, by the way, the government tells Monsanto to put in PCBs, because then I wouldn't have needed the middleman to make my hypothetical.

So I'm just asking if the only thing you get on Monsanto's end is a contractor who is on the hook with the government must have PCBs says to you, "Please sell me PCBs so I can meet this contractual requirement of the government," how is that the government controlling Monsanto?

MR. ZIMMER: Well, I think in the scenario you describe, Your Honor, it's not as good as the one that I did, which is what actually happened, but it is further --

THE COURT: It happened once. It didn't happen with all of these.

MR. ZIMMER: No, certainly not all of them.

THE COURT: I'm asking you about the other ones. I'm not concerned -- I'll analyze the one where the government told

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else, right?

Monsanto to give a contractor -- that it must give the contractor PCBs. I'll analyze that the same way as I analyze the government telling Monsanto to sell the government PCBs. Those are the same, I give you that, but there are others where it's just one step removed from that, and I'm curious how you see the government controlling Monsanto in that commercial arrangement. MR. ZIMMER: I see it as further evidence of the government's need for and insistence upon the product in a variety of military applications. THE COURT: Fair enough. But how does it show the government controlling Monsanto? It's not telling Monsanto to do anything, right? MR. ZIMMER: It's doing it through the contractor who then has to get that from Monsanto, because again, as the plaintiffs have alleged, we're the only place that someone can go and get PCBs. THE COURT: All right. And that fact is one that you find critical in distinguishing this from other sort of off-the-shelf sales? Indeed. MR. ZIMMER: THE COURT: The TSA example, for example, is where the TSA could turn to a hundred people to get the screens it needs, and if you don't want to do it, they'll go somewhere

MR. ZIMMER: That's correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Those are the ones I listed. What other asserted bases for federal officer jurisdiction are you alleging -- or rather proving?

MR. ZIMMER: Yeah. I mentioned Exhibit 6, Your Honor, which we wound up talking about actually anyway.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. ZIMMER: And 21, which I'm going to try to find here. And this is another example of what I characterized earlier as being an unwilling sale by Monsanto, once again in particular because of the date involved. Exhibit 21 is dated November 17, 1972, and it's a response to -- from Monsanto to someone in the Bureau of Domestic Commerce of the U.S. Department of Commerce. And it states very plainly that "As you are aware, because of the increasing environmental concerns expressed about products containing polychlorinated biphenyls, (PCBs), Monsanto Company no longer sells Aroclor 1242 for the uses which we understand Emerson & Cuming, Inc. intend for the Aroclor 1242 we have been directed to deliver."

So here we're telling the government, look, we think you should find an alternative product. In fact, further down the page they say, "We therefore respectfully question the wisdom of your directing us to sell this material when, as we understand it, alternative acceptable materials are available for the use to which our Aroclor 1242 is to be put."

1 Further evidence, Your Honor, of being directed to do something over our objection. 2 3 THE COURT: Thank you. Remind me of that exhibit number again. That was 21? 4 MR. ZIMMER: 21, Your Honor. 5 6 THE COURT: Thank you. 7 MR. ZIMMER: And then 23 is another one. If you'd give me just a moment, if you would. 8 9 Your Honor, I apologize. We've already addressed 23. I had my numbers fouled up. I think 21 is illustrative of the 10 11 point I wanted to make here. 12 THE COURT: Thank you. 13 MR. ZIMMER: Thank you, Your Honor. MR. KETTERLING: Your Honor, if we're on Exhibit 21, 14 15 could I make one further comment? 16 THE COURT: Yes. 17 MR. KETTERLING: And I think the language in 18 Exhibit 21 is significant because it does say at the end of the 19 first page, "alternative acceptable materials are available for 20 the use to which Aroclor 1242 is to be put." 21 In other words, this is just one of the alternatives 22 the government could have used or could have specified that 23 they wanted Raytheon to use. They decided to use this. It 24 doesn't mean that they directed how to produce it. In fact, 25 there are alternate materials that Monsanto says could also be

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     used.
            I think that's significant. It's not that the
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     government is giving them precise specifications. They're
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     saying we want this product that you have, but there are other
     products out there.
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               THE COURT: They're not saying we want this product.
     They're saying you must give us this product.
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               MR. KETTERLING: Well, this letter says that. We
    haven't seen the letter that supposedly directs this action.
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    All we've seen is this letter which --
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               THE COURT: The evidence I have says it. The
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     evidence I haven't, I don't know what it says. I can only go
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     by the evidence I have in front of me.
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               MR. KETTERLING: It's a very self-serving letter, and
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     it's one piece of evidence for them, but does it get to a
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     preponderance of the evidence?
                           I sincerely doubt this letter was written
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               THE COURT:
     in order to defeat removal. So that's the only way it would be
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     self-serving.
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               MR. KETTERLING: Causal nexus is also completely
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     lacking in this case with Exhibit 21.
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               THE COURT:
                           Thank you.
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               I'll take a brief recess.
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               THE CLERK: Court is in recess.
               (A recess is then taken.)
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                           All right. I'd like to establish perhaps
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               THE COURT:
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a couple of goalposts or parameters that help decide the case in between a couple of extremes.

So first of all, as a predicate to analyzing the case, I've already held and I reaffirm that it's my view this is a factual dispute, placing on Monsanto the burden of proof that comes with that.

I'm sympathetic to the argument that that's difficult in this case -- it's difficult in many removal cases -- to gin up the proof that quickly without the typical tools for ginning up evidence that come in litigation, but there's nothing in the rules or the case law that allows me to say this dispute spans decades, therefore I'm going to excuse the typical requirements under federal law for removal.

And so that's how I view this case, that it is a factual dispute requiring or at least placing the burden on Monsanto to meet a certain factual showing at least for the disputed pieces of evidence here or disputed contentions of fact.

Then I want to talk about control in the way that it's played out in this case at least. I started out by suggesting that there's a difference in how to think about control that can be grounded in the -- what you might think of as the complexity of the object.

So it's true, in my view, that in this case there are not the lengthy specifications for how to make PCBs that you

might find with other products. There are not pages and pages describing on and on what kind of PCB we want here, nor are there pages and pages describing even the manufacturing process. But in my view, that's not fatal to an attempt to show Watson-style control here. And I use "control" as an abbreviation for the longer formulation we've already discussed as the test in this case.

And that's because it's impossible to go on and on and describe how you want a molecule to look. So in my view, you can show control in this case by the federal government saying, in essence, to Monsanto, "We demand that the product we're buying from you contain PCBs," or even "We demand that you provide us PCBs." That's even simpler, so I'll stick with that to start at least. The government says, "We demand that you produce for us PCBs in order to meet the specifications of this contract." Then, in my view, that's enough to show control.

As I've said, because this case doesn't -- the harm is based on the existence of the molecule in the environment, it's not an artifact of how it was made, so the process doesn't really matter, it's just the molecule is here or not here. And it's very difficult to think of multiple ways to formulate this molecule. There's really just one. So you can get control that way.

I don't think you have control if it's more

attenuated than that. So I don't think that you have control if you say, "We'd like this product to contain PCBs." That's not control.

I don't think you have control, for example, if you say, "Here's an example of the product that we want, and it contains PCBs, but don't think by the example that we're requiring PCBs." That's not control.

Similarly, you don't have control over Monsanto if the federal government says to a contractor, "We want you to provide us this product and it must contain PCBs," and Monsanto is not on the scene in that relationship. It's just that the contractor then turns to Monsanto and says, "We need you to sell us PCBs in order to satisfy the government's requirements."

I appreciate that this has an unusual fact to it, which is that the contractor has to turn to Monsanto in practical terms to get the PCBs, but I'm not being asked about how difficult life is for that contractor. I'm being asked about government control over Monsanto, and that's not a showing of government control over Monsanto.

Of course, there is a variation on that, where the government says what I just described to the contractor, and then turns around and tells Monsanto, "You must give the contractor PCBs." And I've already said I treat that the same as my first hypothetical, that if you've just got a contractor

tell Monsanto, "We really need your PCBs because we have to have them to meet a government requirement," that's not control.

If you have the government saying to Monsanto, "We'd really, really like PCBs in this product," that's not control either. It's got to be a must; they've got to demand it.

In my view, it's also irrelevant whether the government is demanding that Monsanto give it PCBs in order to meet contractual requirements even though Monsanto is unwilling. That's a better case for Monsanto, but I'll give Monsanto the victory if it just is required to produce PCBs in order to meet the government's contractual demands. In my view, that's enough to show Watson-style control.

I'd like to turn to nexus. And here I reject

Monsanto's arguments about what nexus means in this case. I

understand why that would be an attractive argument here, and

it's not a silly argument, because it is true that in some

way -- in some ways plaintiffs here are saying to Monsanto in

the state court filings, "You are responsible for all these

PCBs. If we find a PCB here in Oregon, it's yours."

So Monsanto wants to say, well, there's your nexus. Plaintiff's own statements say if there's a PCB here, Monsanto is responsible for it.

But that conflates that question of responsibility, you know, via CERCLA or anything else, tort or whatever it

might be, for the PCBs with the very different question I'm being asked here, which is the federal officer basis for jurisdiction. And that means that Monsanto has to show not just that any of its PCBs through a wide variety of means, including just private sales, ended up in Oregon. It has to show that the PCBs it made as a federal actor have a nexus to Oregon.

So, in my view, it's not enough to just say, hey, we made a lot of PCBs, and the plaintiff says they're all ours and they float and they fly and they travel on ships and they got to Oregon. I think the obligation on Monsanto is to show that, as against a contested factual dispute, to show that the activities -- the subset of all of its activities that are the activities it engaged in under the control of the federal government produce PCBs that can be linked to Oregon, and it's not plaintiff's obligation to show the PCBs here in Oregon are not so linked. It's Monsanto's obligation to show that the PCBs here in Oregon are so linked and that they're not the result of any of the myriad non-controlled activities Monsanto also engaged in during the relevant time period.

I'll set to one side for a moment the colorable defense issue and just focus on these two prongs of *Watson*. What I've said about nexus means that there is, in fact, no nexus to Oregon for almost all of the asserted bases -- of the activities that amount to the asserted bases for federal

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     officer jurisdiction. There's no showing by Monsanto.
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     often -- maybe always, except in one instance, not even an
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     allegation, but there's certainly no factual showing sufficient
     to meet any burden of proof on the question, with the bare
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     exception of what I'll call the sort of off-the-shelf sale to
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     the Department of Interior here in Oregon. There's a nexus.
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     The problem is, there's also no control there and no colorable
     defense.
               Therefore, I grant the motion to remand.
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               Thank you all. We'll be in recess.
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               MR. KETTERLING: Thank you, Your Honor.
               THE CLERK:
                           Court is in recess.
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               (Proceedings concluded at 4:54 p.m.)
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--000--I certify, by signing below, that the foregoing is a correct transcript of the record of proceedings in the above-entitled cause. A transcript without an original signature or conformed signature is not certified. /s/Bonita J. Shumway July 26, 2018 BONITA J. SHUMWAY, CSR, RMR, CRR DATE Official Court Reporter 

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